

Reading: A Famous Home

Task 1: True or False

Read these sentences about the White House. Do you think they are true or false? Then read and check.

1. The White House is more than 200 years old. (T / F)
2. No one lives in the White House. (T / F)
3. All the rooms are government offices. (T / F)
4. The Oval Office is where the president works. (T / F)
5. The White House is open to the public. (T / F)
6. There are a lot of fun things for a president to do. (T / F)

The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC, is the most famous address in America. It is where the United States president works, and lives. The president's family has children's birthday parties, holiday dinners, and weddings in this world-famous building.



THE BUILDING

First built in 1800, the White House is where the president of the United States governs a country of 50 states and 317 million people.

The presidential family lives on the second and third floors. There are 16 bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and a dining room. Special guests stay in the Queen's Bedroom or the Lincoln Bedroom.

In the West Wing are the staff offices. The president's own office, the Oval Office, is also there. It has three large windows behind the president's desk, and there is a fireplace at the other end.

Each new president chooses new curtains, new furniture, and a special new carpet. There are pictures of old presidents on the wall, and there is the famous desk, a gift from the British Queen Victoria in 1880.

THE WHITE HOUSE DAY BY DAY

The White House is open to visitors. It is free. About 6,000 people a day visit. The president meets special guests in the East Room and talks to journalists in the Press Room.

About 150 people work for the president in the West Wing and for the presidential family in the East Wing. Another 100 people take care of the building day and night.

There are 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms, and five kitchens, all on six floors. There are three elevators. The State Dining Room is big enough for 140 guests.

Outside, gardeners grow fruit and vegetables. There is also a tennis court, a jogging track, and a swimming pool. Inside there is a movie theater, a billiard room, a bowling alley, and a library. As former President Reagan said,

"The White House is like an eight-star hotel!"

Task 2: Answer the Questions

Answer the questions below about the reading. Just discuss. You do not need to write.

1. The White House has two uses. What are they?
2. Where exactly in the White House does the president live?
3. Where does the president work?
4. Where do special guests stay?
5. What is the Oval Office?
6. What does each new president change?
7. How much does it cost to visit the White House?
8. How many people work in the White House?
9. What can the president do to relax?

Task 3: Ask and Answer

Make questions using the information below.

• Is there a/an ...? • Are there any ---?	• A movie theater • Many offices • Many bathrooms • A swimming pool • A library • Any elevators • A tennis court • A vegetable garden
• Yes, there is... • No, there isn't... • Yes, there are a lot of... • No, there aren't...	

Task 4: Talk about you

Tell your partners about your dream house!